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SUBJECT: CYPRUS SUPPORTS SUSTAINED, BUT CAREFUL PRESSURE ON  
BURMA

REF: SECSTATE 155019

Per reftel, on November 16 PolOff demarched Nicos Panayi, First Secretary, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Cypriot MFA. Panayi stated that Cyprus supported "sustained pressure" on Burma, and backed the United Nations's good offices mission led by UN Undersecretary Ibrahim Gambari. He added that both the European Union - ASEAN Summit on November 22 and the ASEAN Charter (to which Cyprus had contributed text) could help promote democracy in Burma. Panayi cautioned that any Burma-related measures must be well thought-out, and applied gradually and carefully. Cyprus would follow EU consensus, he thought. Turning specifically to financial crackdowns, Panayi revealed that Brussels was worried at the possibility that a tough sanctions regime could harm the citizenry as much or more than the authoritarian government. Gambari himself had argued that sanctions were not productive, he claimed.  
SCHLICHER